

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01

CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01

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R 081740Z NOV 73

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2623

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 1934

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, WB, GE, UR

REF: BERLIN 1929

SUBJ: FOREIGN EXCHANGE REQUIREMENT FOR VISITS

1. GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ NOVEMBER 8 REPORTED TO BERLIN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON GDR INCREASE OF EXCHANGE REQUIREMENTS FOR VISITORS FROM WEST BERLIN. SCHUETZ TOLD HOUSE THAT EXCHANGE MEASURES WERE PART OF CAMPAIGN BY GDR TO INTIMIDATE WEST BERLIN. HE SAID INCREASES WERE ESPECIALLY ONEROUS BECAUSE THEY HIT OLD AND POOR CITIZENS HARDEST. SCHUETZ ALSO CALLED FOR UNITED FRONT IN HOUSE AND SAID SENAT WAS IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH BONN AND ALLIES.

2. FDP FRAKTION LEADER OXFORT SUPPORTED GOVERNING MAYOR BUT CDU FRAKTION LEADER, LUMMER, CRITICIZED SPD FOR
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HAVING ACCEPTED VISITS AGREEMENT WHICH COULD BE EXPLOITED

BY GDR. HE QUOTED SCHUETZ'S STATEMENTS FROM 1971-1972 IN WHICH SCHUETZ MINIMIZED RISKS INVOLVED. IN UNUSUAL PUBLIC DISPLAY OF EMOTION, SCHUETZ WAS VISIBLY ANGRY AT ATTACK AND SHOUTED AT LUMMER.

3. SENAT OFFICIAL KUNZE HAS REQUESTED MEETING WITH GDR REP MITDANK FOR NOVEMBER 9 TO CONTINUE DISCUSSION OF EXCHANGE INCREASE, BUT KUNZE, WILL NOT MAKE ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR A COMPROMISE. SENAT CHANCELLERY DIRECTOR HERZ, HOWEVER, HAS INDICATED TO MISSION OFFICER THAT SENAT MIGHT ACCEPT COMPROMISE WHEREBY GDR WOULD PERMIT PENSIONERS TO EXCHANGE UNSPENT GDR MARKS UPON LEAVING EAST GERMANY. ALTHOUGH MITDANK REJECTED THIS SUGGESTION AT NOVEMBER 7 MEETING, HERZ BELIEVES SUCH A COMPROMISE MIGHT BE POSSIBLE AND HINTED QUID PRO QUO COULD BE SENAT AGREEMENT TO PROHIBIT EXCHANGE OF MARKS (DM) FOR EAST GERMAN MARKS (EM) IN WEST BERLIN. AT PRESENT TIME, FREE MARKET RATE IN WEST BERLIN IS ONE DM TO ABOUT FOUR EM COMPARED WITH OFFICIAL RATE OF ONE TO ONE.

4. GOVERNING MAYOR EMPHASIZED TO POLADS AT RECEPTION LAST NIGHT THAT HE HAD NO INTENTION OF ASKING FOR ANY FORMAL ALLIED INTERVENTION BUT WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMAL EXPRESSION OF OUR VIEWS TO SOVIETS. WE AGREE THAT WE SHOULD AVOID DEBATE ON MATTER NOT EXPLICITLY COVERED IN QA AND WOULD PROPOSE TO CONFINE OUR REMARKS TO INFORMAL COMMENT SANS TEXT AT TAIL END OF OTHER BUSINESS WITH BELETSKIY.BORG

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